

WORKSHOP MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

The School Board of Okaloosa County met in Workshop Session on September 9, 2010, in the School District Administration Building, 120 Lowery Place, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

PRESENT: Rodney Walker, Chairman
Cindy Frakes, Vice-Chairman
Howard Hill
Chuck Kelley
Cathy Thigpen

Alexis Tibbetts, Superintendent
C. Jeffrey McInnis, Esq., Attorney to the Board

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., the purpose of the meeting being to review Agenda items, thereby expediting the Regular Meeting. Items may be considered in random order to accommodate visitors and presenters. Routine items not discussed during the Workshop were reviewed prior to the meeting with no further questions or comments by the Board.

The Chairman made the following changes to the Agenda: Added as Consent #26, Re-appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bluewater Elementary School in the amount of \$2050; added as Consent #27, Appropriation of District 4 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to Bob Sikes Elementary School in the amount of \$4784; added as Consent #28, 2010-2011 State Appropriated Equipment Assistance Grant Non-Competitive for School Food Service Authorities; added as Consent #29, Attorney Employment Contract Contingent Fee Agreement with Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP; added as Consent #30, Recommendation to name the football field at Meigs Middle School in honor of Coach Paul Pope.

Mr. McInnis provided for the Board's review and consideration, a proposed Attorney Employment Contract Contingent Fee Agreement with the law firm of Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP and other co-counsel law firms to represent the Okaloosa County School Board in connection with its claim against BP Exploration & Production, Inc. and other defendants. He stated that in conjunction with the Florida School Board's Association and the Superintendent's Association, a coalition of North Florida coastal school boards has been established and the law firm of Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP will be the lead counsel for all matters relating to the BP claim under this agreement. It is a contingency fee agreement; therefore, if there is no recovery there is no fee or cost to the School Board.

Mrs. Frakes requested that the Board consider an emergency addition to the agenda for the naming of the Meigs football field to Coach Paul Pope Field. Pending Board approval, a dedication ceremony is scheduled before the end of the Meigs home game season which is before the next Board meeting. She stated that the name of Meigs Stadium would remain. She provided a draft of the Meigs Middle School SAC Minutes as verification of the unanimous vote to name the football field in honor of Coach Paul Pope.

Jessica Burge of Sodexo gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Program (AHG) and how Sodexo is incorporating the program in the schools. The Alliance is a Foundation created by the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation. The goal of AHG is to significantly reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity by 2015 and empower kids to make healthy lifestyle choices. In committing to reduce childhood obesity, Sodexo is the first food service provider to sign an agreement with the AHG.

Ms. Burge explained that the AHG guidelines are science-based and age-appropriate and focus on healthy snacks and beverages in the schools. An overview of

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the guidelines of food and beverage items was provided, as well as examples of food items within the serving line that are already in compliance with AHG guidelines.

Sodexo's goal is to focus on stocking the vending machines in the cafeteria with food items meeting the AHG guidelines. Ms. Burge stated that Coca-Cola and Pepsi have joined the AHG partnership and are conforming to AHG standards. Mr. Rick Norris, Director of Food Service, stated that the vending machines in the hallways and the gymnasiums are part of the Coca-Cola contract, offering the same products as the vending machines in the cafeterias.

Ms. Burge informed the Board that all of Okaloosa County schools have enrolled in The Fuel Up to Play 60 Program for the 2010-2011 school year. The program is funded by the National Dairy Council and the NFL, and it encourages students to improve nutrition and physical activity behaviors. The schools are eligible for grants to continue the program each year, based on participation.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that the Federal Government has guidelines for the schools' food service programs, and that the District complies with the Federal requirements of providing breakfast to all the schools, summer meals, and meals to children who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. She explained that the Federal Government requires that the Free and Reduced Lunch Program be offered to students who meet a certain poverty level income. Mr. Norris clarified that for a school to be eligible for summer feedings, over 50% of the students must qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and then all students under the age of 18 at that site are provided meals at no charge to the students.

Mrs. Frakes asked which school was designated for the Appropriation of District 5 School Board Member Capital Outlay Funds to CHOICE for an interactive projector and a CNC lathe. Mr. Hill responded that he thought it was for the medical program at Fort Walton Beach High School but he would follow up with Ms. Bonezzi. He stated that when he contacts Ms. Bonezzi he would inquire about purchasing the interactive projectors at a lower cost; therefore, there may be a revision to the amount of the appropriation.

In response to Mrs. Frakes' question as to the location of the public sale for surplus items on September 23 and 24, 2010, Mr. Nobles confirmed that the sale would be at the Central Complex in Niceville.

With regard to the Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement with Grand Canyon University, Mr. Hill asked if the university will comply with all the policies of the District, including the Level 2 background screening. Mr. McInnis responded that the District will require the Level 2 background screening.

In reference to the request to amend the previously awarded tabulation and recommendation for RFB 10-B08, Mr. Kelley asked how the balance of line pricing (BOL) works in conjunction with the competitive bidding; and since the bid has been approved, if it precludes the District from going out for competitive bidding.

Mr. Norris explained that it becomes part of the vendor's original bid that was approved last year. In order to buy additional items without quoting or putting out three or four more bids, the vendors that currently won the bid are asked to submit the balance of a line item that they had, but they have to give the District a discount better than 10%. Once it is Board approved, it becomes part of their original bid. It precludes the District from having to put out a bid every 2-3 weeks for price quotes.

Mr. Kelley asked if Siemens Industry is currently overseeing the thermostat control in each of the facilities. Mr. Nobles responded that Siemens not only oversees the thermostat control, but they also oversee the data collection points of the systems,

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monitoring the amount of air and temperature. Mr. Kelley asked about an issue at one of the schools since February or March that has not been resolved. Discussion followed regarding a lightning strike incident at that school and the process involved determining the damage and redoing the work that had been completed. Mr. Kelley asked if the value of this contract could be seen and if there was savings to the District. Mr. Nobles responded that when comparing bills from last year to bills of this year from those schools that HVAC projects have been completed, there have been either a significant reduction in costs, or costs have not increased.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that the District's deadline to submit its Race To The Top proposal to the State is October 12th. She stated that 2011 will be a strategic planning year and that the District is currently working in a 5-district coalition on professional development and end of course exams. She anticipates staff bringing the proposal to the Board at the next Workshop.

Mr. Hill stated that he would like to see the District come up with a direct deposit payroll system which would save the taxpayers' money and move the District into the 21st century. He stated that the cost to print checks and pay statements each month, as well as the bookkeeper's time in distributing monthly pay statements, could be reduced if the District had a direct deposit payroll system and an online program for employees to obtain their pay statements.

Mrs. Scallan responded that requiring direct deposit would have to be negotiated for any existing employees who do not currently use the direct deposit system; however, to move forward the Board could adopt a policy for new employees. Mrs. Frakes suggested that Mr. Hill bring a proposal to the Board that would direct the attorney to draft a policy for new employees that would be implemented next school year.

Mrs. Frakes informed the Board that her representative for the Charter School Review Committee has been changed to Mary Vasiloff.

Mrs. Frakes noted that employees and departments are working to save money, and should be acknowledged for their efforts at staff meetings and similar gatherings.

Mr. Kelley requested that Jerry Sansom provide the Board with an update on how the revised Zero Tolerance for Drugs Policy is working within the schools at the next Board workshop.

Mrs. Thigpen commented that she attended some of the school budget meetings, and it is distressing that the State continues to cut funds due to economic reasons. She praised principals for doing everything possible to meet class size. She explained the difficulty in being prepared to meet class size when it is unknown from day to day how many students may arrive at any one school, which could push a class over the class size requirement and then would divide that class and a new class would be formed. Discussion continued regarding classroom space and the various options that would be reviewed.

Reference was made to a letter the Board members received from Dr. Charlie McFarland regarding the history of the Special Olympics. Mrs. Frakes noted that their annual recognition and awards banquet is September 28th at the Ramada Inn.

Mr. Kelley commented that he had a concern that some of the Title I schools that receive small school supplements are able to offer more programs than some of the larger schools. He stated that Destin residents pay a substantial amount of money to the county's tax base, and their schools' programs are being cut yet those same programs are being offered in other schools.

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Dr. Tibbetts responded that Mrs. Scallan and Mr. Nobles have worked hard to make the small school supplement fairer and they continue to work on the formula. Mr. Hill noted that Title I received stimulus funds this year, which will not be available next year. Mrs. Scallan stated that the intent of Title funds is to enhance, not to supplant, and when looking at funding models, less appropriation for equalization is not an option as the schools must be treated equally.

Mr. Walker suggested that the Board members review the latest stimulus package which will be available sometime this month. He stated that the funds are intended to assist the District this year, and the District is currently in a position in which needs are looked at on a daily basis, rather than several years from now. A change in the funding formula a few years ago affected the high schools tremendously. Working with OCEA to establish the Associate Teacher Program saved the District a significant amount of money.

Mrs. Thigpen stated that before she would be willing to supplement a school in any way, she would have to know that that the school has done everything possible in making appropriate reductions. Mrs. Frakes stated that consolidation of high school classes should be considered. Mr. Hill gave examples of how Niceville High School has begun to consolidate classes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Jan Crawford, Recorder


ALEXIS TIBBETTS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT AND
CORPORATE SECRETARY


RODNEY L. WALKER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD